Men’s lax looks forward to upcoming season

BY MICHAEL CHARLES
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

For Crusader Men’s Lacrosse coach Mike McCaffrey, the 2000 season was very hectic. He took over the vacant position on Jan. 1, and had less than two months to get to know his players and mold them into a potent Patriot League lacrosse team. Needless to say, the team struggled out of the gate, losing four of their first five games. But a turning point occurred in the sixth game, as the Crusader took on national- ly ranked Hobart and played them fiercely.

From there, the team only won two more games, but played many quality teams to very close games. The foundation was built in those last few games of the 2000, and this trend of good play continued into a productive fall ball season. Here Coach McCaffrey got a chance to work more with returning players as well as with the stellar freshman class. The team has taken the positives of the fall and is heading into the 2001, and this trend of good play continued into a productive fall ball season. Here Coach McCaffrey got a chance to work more with returning players as well as with the stellar freshman class. The team has taken the positives of the fall and is heading into the spring season with a full head of steam.

Coach McCaffrey hopes to focus the team around a solid nucleus of seniors, juniors, and sophomores, who have the experience and leadership necessary to compete in the very difficult Patriot League.

Leading the Crusaders on the attack end of the field, are senior co-captain Rich Santauro, last year’s leading scorer and freshman Brian Hodgson will be counted on to contribute to the Sader offense.

The defense is perhaps the most experienced group on the team. Senior co-captain Matt Sweeney, and juniors Ryan Canavan and Chris Ryan were all key parts to last year’s team. This year sophomore Marty Gilbert, along with seniors Mike McClaughlin and Mike Carr will also need to step up and play solid defense. Sophomore Brian McKennon and freshman Brian Hodgson will be the two men who will be called upon to play between the pipes and stop the opposing offenses.

Holy Cross kicks off the season on Feb. 24 at Fairfield, and opens the home schedule against Providence on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The 10th inning
Matthew Chmura

To many sports fans, athletes are considered family. There are many Celtics fans who look at Red Auerbach as a kind of father figure. He is the man who brought banners to Boston and always makes everyone feel like part of the team in green. He is so much a part of the town, that a contest where the winner, a sixteen-year-old boy named Joseph King, got to hit the lever which brings down one of the greatest houses in all of sports. It seems to mock the great history that the building had. All the work that was put into making Three Rivers a place for memories, and all the athletes who worked hard to supply us with their everlasting heroics was diminished by the contest that put the destruction in the hands on a sixteen year old. Then to make matters even worse, following the implosion was a round of fireworks. This great stadium was not put to rest in a quiet solemn manner, but instead was the subject of just one more public relations stunt. It disgusts me to think that this great stadium was not quietly disposed of, but rather made a show of, in its implosion.

Thinking about this, I have lost all respect for the two Pittsburgh organizations. I can understand and appreciate their decision to move into new parks (the Steelers to an unnamed stadium in the fall, and the new PNC Park opens on March 31, 2001 for the Pirates), but I cannot respect their handling of the destruction. Three Rivers Stadium has meant so much to these two teams, and it deserved more respect than it was given.

This leaves me to worry about the other shrines that sports have left. In a time where teams have seen some of the most memorable events in athletic history. Places like Fenway Park, Wrigley Field, Lambeau Field, and Yankee Stadium are all among these great venues which have shaped athletic history.

On Sunday Feb. 11, 2001 Sports fans all across America lost one of their great homes, when Three Rivers Stadium was imploded. This implosion cost $5.1 million, lasted 19 seconds, and involved 4,800 pounds of dynamite.

Three Rivers Stadium was opened in 1970, at the then enormous cost of $36 million. The Pirates’ stadium was the home for both the Steelers(of the NFL) and the Pirates(of the MLB), for thirty years.

Three Rivers hosted the Steelers, as they built a dynasty in the 1970’s that won four Superbowls in six years. Along with the many great wins that the Steelers had at Three Rivers, none is more memorable than Terry Bradshaw’s awkward completion to Franco Harris in the 1972 playoffs. This completion is now known by sports fans everywhere, as the “Immaculate Reception.”

In addition to these great plays in sports history, Three Rivers has been the home of nine Hall of Famers, including Joe Greene, Jack Ham, Mel Blount, Jack Lambert, Chuck Noll, Chuck Webster, Lynn Swann, as well as the aforementioned Bradshaw and Harris.

On the Baseball side of things, Three Rivers brought the Pirates immediate success. The Pirates moved into the new stadium in the middle of the 1970 season. The P’s went on to win 9 more divisional titles in 10 years. While playing in Three Rivers, the Pirates went on to win 9 more divisional titles, two National League pennants, and two World Series titles.

Despite all of these great memories the home to the Pirates and Steelers, and one of the great homes to all sports fans, was mocked during its destruction. The great shrine was the subject of just one more public relations stunt. It disgusts me to think that this great stadium was not quietly disposed of, but rather made a show of, in its implosion.

The 110th Inning
Mathew Chmura

The only way to protect our forests.

Therefore as a fan of all sports and all teams, I beg of the owners of teams not to follow the examples of the owners of the Boston Red Sox being pulled to its rest by a young child who has no idea how significant the wall is to New-Englanders. Or even better, how about lil’ Meg Kramer getting to cut the ivy off the outfield wall of Wrigley Field as a promotional event before its imploded. This would be fine right? Why not, anything to make the almighty buck. Might as well squeeze every last dollar out of the building that is the symbol of your franchise.

We as sports fans need to remember these great houses of sport, and make sure that this doesn’t happen anymore. To think the thought of Yankee Stadium or Lambeau being imploded is enough to make anyone want to object. Such little respect should disgust us as sports fans. Though I do agree that it is time that some of these old and outdated stadiums be put out of use, this must be done with the respect that these great stadiums deserve.

After all that these great stadiums have given to us, I think that they at least deserve that. I hope that all of the sports fans can realize this before it is too late.

I understand and realize that these aren’t people, but to true sports fans they are more than just buildings. They are more than just wood, iron, and cement. They are the memories and the stories that we will tell our children about. They are part of every sports fan. They are our houses. They are our refuge. They are the places where fifty-year-old men feel like ten-year-olds.

Therefore as a fan of all sports and all teams, I beg of the owners of teams not to follow the poor example that the city of Pittsburgh set. I hope that we can all learn from the Joseph King debacle, and when it is time to lay the next house to rest, lets do it with some respect for all those who have given us.